

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 369 - HB 842

March 9, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Removes authority of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian to require vaccinations of animals within the state or imported into the state for the purpose of protecting the health of animals in Tennessee.

Authorizes the Commissioner and State Veterinarian to both recommend vaccinations of certain livestock within this state or imported into this state for the purpose of protecting the health of livestock in this state and to order vaccinations of non-livestock animals within this state or imported into this state for the purpose of protecting the health of non-livestock animals in this state.

Establishes that nothing prevents a person from labeling meat or a meat product as "mRNA free" or any similar designation, if the animals from which the meat or meat product was derived were not administered an mRNA vaccine or vaccine material.

Establishes that nothing requires the administration of, or authorizes a person to requires, the vaccination of livestock.

Defines "mRNA vaccine or vaccine material" as a substance to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against disease by introducing messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) that corresponds to a viral protein.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Agriculture (DOA), this legislation is estimated to have no significant impact on the DOA's food inspection and sampling programs, as there is no known test for these vaccines in food and no known lab doing this kind of analysis; therefore, there is no estimated impact on the DOA's lab operations.
- Current DOA agents can ensure that the requirements set forth in this legislation are being adhered to by food manufacturers, utilizing existing resources.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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